

Policy:

The Planning Board approves the development of off-leash areas for dog exercise areas in the Montgomery County Parks System subject to the management, site selection, and budget guidelines defined in the Dog Exercise Area Program.

Dog Exercise Area Program:

- 1) All dog exercise areas will require a Dog Owners Group (DOG). The DOG shall also assist the Commission in informing and reminding the general public user to abide by the facility use rules and regulations.***
- 2) Standard dog exercise areas shall be constructed in accordance with the facility development guidelines contained in the Dog Exercise Area Program.***
- 3) Oversight of each dog exercise area will be the joint responsibility of the sponsoring DOG organization, the users, park management, and the Maryland-National Capital Park Police.***
- 4) Basic facility funding for all dog exercise areas shall be supported by the CIP. Any additional facility development features beyond those identified in the facility development guidelines can be supported through private donations made through the Montgomery Parks Foundation. Other acceptable sponsoring groups shall also include: retail partners, local community groups, and private corporate donors.***
- 5) Each dog exercise area shall have sufficient funds to construct and maintain the facility prior to construction.***
- 6) Each dog exercise area shall post the standard rules and regulations contained in the Dog Exercise Area report for the operation of the facility.***
- 7) The exact location and development feasibility of all sites selected for dog exercise areas shall be decided using the Commission's standard facility planning process prior to development. Special attention relative to site development feasibility will be given to each site pursuant to the Commission's environmental guidelines for development.***
- 8) Minor adjustments to the Dog Exercise Area Program may be made by the Director as appropriate.***
- 9) The approval of all dog exercise areas and Dog Owner Group's (DOG) must be granted by the Planning Board.***

(Adopted June 27, 2002)

The Planning Board formally approved the development of DEA's in Wheaton Regional Park, Black Hill Regional Park, and Ridge Road Recreational Park.

(Adopted October 24, 2002)

- **Role of MCDOG**
 - *To keep all responsibility for DEA management and maintenance within the Department/Commission*
 - *To interact with the Department just like any other Friends Group and coordinate with the Department on patron issues from time-to-time. MC-DOG has no responsibility to manage or maintain DEA's [other than the routine pick-up expected of all DEA users]*
 - *MC-DOG will continue to work with the Department in identifying new DEA sites and gather public support for their development across the County.*

- **Dog Park Rules**
 1. **This Special Rule and Regulation applies to dog exercise areas (dog parks in parks) of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Montgomery County, Maryland.**

 2. **A dog in the dog park must:**
 - a) **Be legally licensed;**
 - b) **Have current vaccinations;**
 - c) **Wear a visible license tag issued under state and/or local law; and**
 - d) **Be at least four months old.**

 3. **A person:**
 - a) **Must be at least 13 years old to bring a dog into the dog park;**
 - b) **Must not have more than three dogs in the dog park;**
 - c) **Must not smoke or eat in the dog park;**
 - d) **Must clean up the dog feces of the person's dog, place the feces in the receptacle, and fill any hole caused by the person's dog;**
 - e) **Must not bring a female dog in heat into the dog park;**
 - f) **May only bring a dog and no other animal into the dog park;**
 - g) **Must be inside the dog park with the dog to maintain control of the person's dog and must maintain visual contact with the dog;**
 - h) **Must strictly supervise any child the person brings into the dog park;**
 - i) **Is liable for an injury or damage to a person or property caused by the person and/or the person's dog in the dog park;**
 - j) **Must not conduct a dog training class for a fee in the dog park, unless the person has obtained a permit from the Commission and any permits required by state, federal, and local laws and regulations;**
 - k) **Must not bring glass or metal containers or objects in the dog park;**
 - l) **Uses the dog park at the person's own risk;**

- m) **Must not bring into the dog park a dangerous dog, a potentially dangerous dog, or a guard dog as defined in Chapter 5 Animal Control, Montgomery County Code;**
 - n) **Must not bring into the dog park an aggressive dog, which is a dog that bites, attacks, injures, threatens, or endangers a dog or person;**
 - o) **Is solely responsible for the action of the person's dog in the dog park; and**
 - p) **Must have the person's dog on a leash held by a person when outside the dog park.**
4. **The Commission is not liable for injury to a person or dog, or Damage to property in the dog park.**
 5. **This Special Rule and Regulation is issued and promulgated pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of the Commission, which are incorporated herein by reference.**
 6. **This Special Rule and Regulation is effective as of the execution by the Director of Department and remains in effect until rescinded, superseded or modified.**
 7. **A person must comply with the Rules and Regulations of the Commission and with all local, State and federal laws and Regulations.**
- **Signs with Phone Numbers of Park Police and Manager — This past summer, Staff met with Park Police and decided that DEA policy require that the phone numbers of Park Police and Park Manager to be clearly posted in each DEA. Staff reviewed the general policy for dealing with an aggressive dog in DEA's, which is that the Park Police should be called to enforce the DEA rules. Staff decided that this existing policy was sufficient. Among such policies is the policy, followed elsewhere in the parks, that the Park Police will call the Humane Society if the Park Police need assistance dealing with an animal.**